

Biology Guidelines **Mrs. Cameron**

Purpose: Biology is defined as the study of life. This survey course will help you understand the inner workings of your body and how all life interacts together in the biosphere. This course will utilize your text, class lecture, videos, animations, lab activities, group activities, projects, and a field trip to the zoo to stimulate your interest and understanding of biology. You will develop important lab skills that will be used in pre-B chemistry and further developed if you pursue IB Science. I encourage you to take an active part in this class and an active role in your own learning. Science requires a large amount of discipline, organization and a willingness to learn. Your success depends on you!

Curriculum:

1st Semester

Lab skills/tools
Ecology
Biochemistry
Cell Biology
Cell Energy (Cell Respiration/Photosynthesis)
Classification
Bioethics

2nd Semester

Disease and Immunity
Cell Reproduction
Genetics
Molecular Genetics
Evolution
Animal & Plant Kingdom
Anatomy & Physiology

Student Engagement

- 1. Notebook** – each person will be required to keep a 3 ring notebook or electronic notebook for their unit guide homework questions, class notes and proof of study. Homework questions will be graded at the end of each unit and notes and proof of study checked. A grade will be entered at the end of each grading quarter. The class will be organized by units; each unit has a **Unit guide** which is a summary sheet that lists the readings, labs, worksheets, text book questions, and vocabulary to be covered. You will be provided **Biology Gems of Wisdom** which will include: Biology Guidelines, Options for Extra Credit, Experimental Design Diagram, Safety Guidelines, Formal Lab write up guidelines.
- 2. Vocabulary** – on the unit guide there will be a list of vocabulary words. You will define and know these terms. As the terms are used in the reading, lab, or class lecture define them in your **(Cornell) notes**. Do not copy the definitions from the glossary in the book; it may not use the same phrasing that will be used on your tests.
- 3. Practice Concepts learned** - This will be done by answering questions assigned in the textbook. These are to be done in **complete sentences** on notebook paper or in good notes. The questions are all **due the day before the test** when they will be reviewed and corrected. The corrected questions will be turned in on the day of the test as well as your notes and Proof of Study either hard copy or electronically. Please do not wait until the last minute to do your homework questions. **Proof of Study:** Vocabulary must be practiced by either highlighting C notes, summarizing and writing questions in left hand column, OR by making flash cards, fold-its, Venn diagrams or using other electronic quizlets for the required terms. If you use quizlet **it must be catered to our vocabulary list**, not just copied off.
- 4. Labs** – Science is about designing experiments, collecting and analyzing data and evaluating data collected to reach a conclusion. You will do formal lab reports for specified labs. All other labs will be turned in as presented in the lab handout, these are called informal labs. You must be prepared before performing labs. Unprepared students will have to finish their lab after school if it is not completed in class. All labs will obey safety guidelines.
- 5. Listen and Communicate** – You will need to utilize carefully listening skills to be a successful student in class. You will communicate your understanding of biology concepts as you write up your lab reports. You will develop oral communication skills as you present some lab research projects to

the class. You will learn bioethics strategies to share your opinions effectively in current bioethics topics.

Assessment for Student Learning

1. **Quizzes**— there will be about one quiz every 1-2 weeks. Each quiz will be worth **20 points**. For the semester grade the 3 lowest quiz scores will be discarded. There will not be any make-up quizzes, unless prearranged with the teacher. If you know that you will miss class arrange to take the quiz early.
2. **Tests**— there will be a unit test at the end of each unit's work. Each test will be worth approximately 100 points. Tests can be made up as a result of an excused absence. **No test grades will be dropped. Test Improvements:** students who did not do well on a test and want to improve their grade can come in before/after school or during lunch to make the appropriate test corrections.
3. **Labs, activities, class notebook**
4. **Skyward grade book** – All assignments and tests are continually entered in the grade book. Student feedback is a priority. If there are any questions or if I make a mistake in entering a grade, please notify me immediately.

Grading Criteria – letter grades for assignments, quizzes and tests will be determined on the following scale:

A 92-100%	C+ 78-79%	F below 60%
A- 90-91%	C 70-77%	
B+ 88-89%	C- 68-69%	
B 82-87%	D+ 66-67%	
B- 80-81%	D 60-65%	

Absence and Makeup Work: all work missed because of an excused absence must be made up. Arrangements to make up work must be done on the day you return from the excused absence except for quizzes, which can not be made up. Any work missed because of an unexcused absence can not be made up for grading. It is **your** responsibility to see me about work you missed the day you return.

Late Work: all assignments have a due date and will be expected to be turned in on that date at the **beginning** of class unless specified otherwise. **The only assignments that will be accepted after the due date is for an excused absence or any other important reason as arranged with me.** Therefore, it is best to turn in what you have finished rather than nothing at all.

Classroom Environment and Culture

Attendance: you are expected to be in your assigned seat on time with your notebook/ipad and writing implement. If you are detained and are going to be late bring a pass. The penalty after your 2nd “grace” tardy will be **Cameron duty** – cleaning desks, scrubbing test-tubes, etc. Good attendance is mandatory to your success. Pre-B Biology moves very quickly; you don't want to miss out and get behind. You are also expected to work and remain in your seat until I excuse you. Packing up early will award you Cameron duty as will missed baskets and not recycling what could be recycled.

Academic Integrity: Be proud of who you are and what you can do. Prepare yourself the best you can and always do your own work. Cheating on any test, quiz or assignment merits a failing grade for that test, quiz or assignment. Cheating includes copying someone's homework. Cheating includes plagiarizing resources such as the Internet without properly citing them. Cheating includes falsifying laboratory data. Some biology research papers/lab reports will be submitted to Turnitin.com for plagiarism checks.

Courtesy and Respect: Always display courtesy and respect for your fellow classmates and teacher. Raise your hand and wait to be called on. Please do not interrupt someone or belittle their questions or comments. Please watch your language, **rude language and putdowns will be met with rude pushups!**

Discipline Procedures:

1. Warning with Cameron duty.
2. Student/parent/teacher conference.

3. Referral to office

Needed Supplies:

- 1. notebook paper/ipad, blue or black pens, red pens, sharpie, highlighters, metric ruler, flash drive
- 2 .2, 2-L pop bottles by the 4th week of school

Safety Contract

I understand and agree to the following:

- 1. Laboratory safety is extremely important, both for me, and for my classmates. Failure to follow the lab rules could result in serious injury to myself or someone else.
- 2. By not following the lab rules, I am willfully and deliberately putting myself and those around me in danger.
- 3. If I choose to break a lab rule, I may be immediately removed from the lab area of the classroom, and forfeit the rest of the experiment. Furthermore, I will receive a zero grade for the remainder of the lab, including post-lab write-up.
- 4. I will abide by the following rules:
 - a. Safety goggles must be worn when instructed to do so.
 - b. Loose clothing and open-toed shoes should not be worn during lab. Long hair should be tied back with a ribbon or hair elastic.
 - c. The unauthorized mixing of any chemicals is strictly forbidden. Only those reagents which have been approved by the teacher or within the laboratory procedure should be combined.
 - d. All specimens to be cut with a scalpel will be done on the desk and not in the hand. Extra care will be used when using a scalpel.
 - e. No unapproved experiments will be permitted at any time.
 - f. Students are not allowed in the prep room without express consent of the teacher.
 - g. Rough-housing or other goofing-type behaviors will not be tolerated. Respect will be shown to animals/organs to be dissected. The laboratory is a place where serious work should occur, and serious consequences for not acting appropriately will be enacted by the teacher.
 - h. Report any injury, spill or broken equipment immediately to the teacher. Place broken glass and other lab materials in the directed containers.
 - i. No eating or drinking during labs.
 - j. Thoroughly clean lab area, put away materials as requested and wash hands at the end of class.

Communication

Parents and students if at any time you have questions or need to contact me please email me at Kelly.cameron@vansd.org I will respond to your email within 24 hours. All students will be given a calendar for the current unit that will have the general agenda for each day as well as all assignment due dates and dates for quizzes and tests.

Parents: Thank you for taking the time to read the Pre-B Biology guidelines and syllabus. I look forward to the opportunity to teach your student this year and hope to see you at open house and or parent teacher conferences.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kelly Cameron

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